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ABSTRACT

This mastery test is designed to accompany the introductory unit to the second-semester 12th-grade "Comparing Political Experiences" course. The 27-item multiple-choice test was developed by the National Evaluation Systems, Inc. in conjunction with the project directors to determine whether the unit objectives have been achieved. Since this unit is a summary of the political systems' concepts developed in the first semester course, the test measures student knowledge of political-system types, fundamental systems' concepts, political resources, and political activities. The test should be administered to the class as a group and then returned to the project headquarters for grading and analysis for possible revision of the student materials. (DE)

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Comparing Political Experiences

SAVE THE SYSTEM!

Mastery Test

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For CPE
High School Political Science Curriculum Project
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Directions

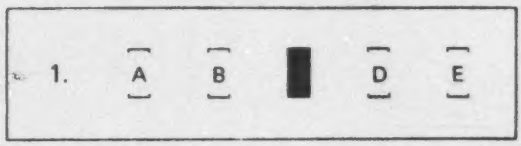
The test you are about to take has 27 multiple choice questions. Read each question carefully and select an answer choice. You should record your choice by blackening the small space containing the letter corresponding to your answer.

Your answer sheet will be scored by a machine. Therefore, please make your marks dark and only in the answer spaces you select. Look at the sample question below and see how the answer is recorded in the sample answer box.

SAMPLE QUESTION

1. The opposite of UP is:
   - A. over
   - B. beside
   - C. down
   - D. inside

SAMPLE ANSWER BOX



REMEMBER:

1. Use a pencil only (No. 2 lead is best).
2. Use only the answer spaces A, B, C and D. There are NO questions with an "E" choice.
3. If you wish to change an answer, erase the unwanted mark completely.
4. Answer all questions and be sure you have marked your choice correctly. Mark ALL answers on your answer sheet.
5. DO NOT write in your test booklet and do not make stray marks on your answer sheet.
6. DO NOT add to or change the information at the top of the answer sheet. This space is for computer use only.
7. Good luck and take your time.

COMPARING POLITICAL EXPERIENCES is a two semester high school course developed by the High School Political Science Curriculum Project, under the sponsorship of the American Political Science Association's Committee on Pre-Collegiate Education. The project is supported by funds provided by the National Science Foundation. National Evaluation Systems, Inc., is the evaluation agency responsible for test development.

1. POLITICAL ACTIVITIES are defined as:

A. actions taken by political leaders and followers.

B. activities supported by funds acquired by taxation.

C. things people do to distribute resources in a group.

D. actions people take during campaigns, conventions, and terms of public office.

2. Look for POLITICAL RESOURCES in the following situation.

A youth group wanted to open a coffee house. They had an old building which they planned to paint and decorate. But they needed equipment which they could not afford.

The editor of the underground newspaper agreed to advertise the new coffee house and publicize their need for donations of equipment. The members of the group were hopeful, for they thought they had interesting ideas which would make the coffee house a success.

What POLITICAL RESOURCES did the youth group have?

A. ideas and means of communication

B. a coffee house and wide public support

C. painting and decorating the coffee house

D. equipment and members

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3. In the 1960's at the Lakeview Heights private school, the principal decided what courses were to be taught. But the teachers chose which books to use in their classes. The books were provided by the school.

Below are statements about Lakeview Heights in the 1970's. Select one statement which best describes a POLITICAL CONFLICT experience.

A. Due to rising costs, the school requires students' parents to pay for the books. The teachers still determine which books are to be used for the courses the principal selects.

B. The parents are now required to pay for the books. They have formed an organization to pressure the school to give them a voice in selection. Due to parents' pressure, the teachers can no longer handle book selection and the principal has difficulty trying to make all the decisions.

C. The principal decides on courses and the teachers decide on books. The school pays for the books.

D. Representatives of a new parents' organization have been given a voice in deciding what courses are to be taught and what books are to be used. The parents, teachers and principal now meet to make all decisions about courses and books.

4. Which of the following can BEST be combined to form a SYSTEM?

A. a desk, a person, and a broken air conditioner in a room

B. the sun, the water, and the polar ice cap

C. salt, pepper, and sugar on a table in an empty dining room

D. leaves, a tree, and poisonous soil

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5. POLITICAL RESOURCES are defined as:

A. patterns of political activities.

B. the voters in a political district.

C. things which people in a group value.

D. strategies for getting elected to political office.

6. Look for POLITICAL ACTIVITIES in the following situation.

Drought and famine struck Badluckadesh. The government of neighboring Landoplenti did nothing to aid the suffering people. A group of citizens of Landoplenti went on a hunger strike to protest their government's failure to act.

L.S. News and State Report published a story on the hunger strike which interested many people in the problem. The government issued a statement explaining their unwillingness to send aid to Badluckadesh.

Which of the following statements about the POLITICAL ACTIVITY in this situation is true?

A. No political activities were undertaken by the government of Landoplenti.

B. The hunger strike was a political activity.

C. The increased interest of the public in Landoplenti was a political activity.

D. The drought, famine and pestilence in Badluckadesh was a political activity.

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7. Camp Macho is located high in the Chauvinist Mountains. Twenty new Marine recruits have just arrived. After issuing them new uniforms, a superior officer orders them to report to the parade ground for inspection. They are told how to stand at attention and salute properly when addressed by a higher officer. They are given their daily schedule and told the punishments for disobeying orders.

Which of these statements would be most useful in identifying the POLITICAL SYSTEM at Camp Macho?

A. The recruits can salute properly.

B. Camp Macho is in the Chauvinist Mountains.

C. The higher officers have authority over the recruits.

D. The group of people all have similar uniforms.

8. At a meeting of the men's liberation group, the new child-care center was the topic of discussion. Berny started by saying, "I went to enroll my children in the center, but they told me that only the children of single women are admitted. That policy is unfair!"

Frank suggested picketing the center, but George argued for taking the matter to court. Ed listened to the suggestions and decided to talk to a lawyer friend of his who might help the group.

Who is performing an observer role in this group?

A. Berny

B. Frank

C. George

D. Ed

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9. Which of the following can BEST be combined to form a SYSTEM?

A. 400 bricks lying in the middle of an open field

B. the parts in an automobile engine which is turned off

C. two basketball teams playing against one another in a close game

D. ten people walking around in a room which is totally dark

10. In the 1920's the Perky Pickle Company was run by Alfred Perky. He made all the management decisions and was usually fair to his employees. There were times, however, when he refused to give deserved raises and fired people without giving reasons.

Below are statements about the Perky Pickle Company in the 1930's. Select one statement which best describes a POLITICAL CHANGE experience.

A. After Mr. Perky died, the company was turned over to his loyal employees. Management matters were decided by votes taken in general meetings.

B. The company doubled in size and Mr. Perky found that managing the company was much more difficult. Many more of the employees were dissatisfied with his decisions and wanted to participate in making policies.

C. The company employees had joined a union. The employees were now able to argue better for more satisfactory company policies. The final decision was still Mr. Perky's.

D. Mr. Perky made all decisions. Employees felt he was fair, except when Bill was fired for not coming to work on time.

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11. Three rural groups formed the Joisey Mafia--the Eastern group led by Vinney, the Western group led by Tony, and the Southern group led by Mark. As the huge organization from Yoiker tried to take over their betting operation, they decided how to fight it.

At a meeting Vinney presented a plan to attack the headquarters of the Yoiker organization. Tony and Mark wanted to talk to the Yoiker organization and try to work out an agreement. Even though Vinney disagreed, he had to go along with them.

The Joisey POLITICAL SYSTEM is which one of the following types?

A. Elite

B. Bureaucratic

C. Participant

D. Coalitional

12. Which of the following lists contains ONLY POLITICAL ACTIVITIES?

A. saluting the flag
watching the news
marching in a parade

B. making decisions for a group
voting in an election
protesting government decisions

C. obeying laws
earning a living
saying the pledge of allegiance

D. campaigning for a candidate
believing in freedom
treating persons equally

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13. Look for POLITICAL ACTIVITIES in the following situation.

Joan Baez, the folksinger, was very strongly opposed to American involvement in the Viet Nam war. Through concerts and records, she made a lot of money. However, since tax money was used to support the war, she refused to pay taxes. She organized and provided entertainment at anti-war rallies.

Which one of the following statements is true about the POLITICAL ACTIVITIES in this situation?

A. Making a lot of money was a political activity since it allowed Joan to give more concerts.

B. Giving concerts was a political activity since it provided many people with music.

C. Being opposed to the war was a political activity because it was the right thing to do.

D. Organizing anti-war rallies was a political activity because the rallies were intended to increase opposition to the war.

14. Which of the following can BEST be combined to form a SYSTEM?

A. fourteen cars lined up on a used car showroom

B. the heart, the blood, and the lungs of a living person

C. a boxer, an empty boxing ring, and a pair of boxing gloves

D. a protest rally, a sit-in, and a boycott

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15. Read the following situation. Which one of the four statements listed below is true about the OBSERVER ROLE in this situation?

The evil organization, S.L.U.R.P., was attempting to take over the news media of the world. Wonder Woman called Batman and Superman to a super-heroes' meeting. Superman wanted to leap tall buildings and find the headquarters directly. Wonder Woman wanted to arrange a meeting of all news media. Batman was on the telephone during the entire discussion. He would send Robin to ask Captain Marvel to come. Robin would bring Marvel and the group could see if he had any ideas.

A. Superman performed an observer role well because he gave his opinion.

B. Robin performed an observer role poorly because he took orders from Batman.

C. Batman performed an observer role poorly because he didn't listen carefully to the discussion.

D. Batman performed an observer role poorly because he isn't for Captain Marvel.

16. Which of the following statements best indicates that Mard and her two sons, John and Herbert, form a POLITICAL SYSTEM?

A. Mard, John and Herbert live in the same house. John and Herbert attend the same high school.

B. Mard has a new job. The company she was working for has gone out of business and she has to relocate.

C. John and Herbert don't want to move, but Mard says, "I don't want to argue any more. I'm the one who makes the decisions in this family."

D. John likes to swim and wants a house with a pool. Herbert wants a patio. Mard just wants a house.

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17. Look for POLITICAL RESOURCES in the following situation.

Sally Forth, a member of the State Senate, was trying to get the Equal Rights Amendment passed in her state. She had been a State Senator for only a few months and she was the only woman in the Senate.

Ms. Forth gave her arguments for the amendment, surprising many of the Senators by the forcefulness of her speech. Her speech changed many Senators' minds about the issue, and it looked as though the amendment would be passed.

One of Sally Forth's POLITICAL RESOURCES in this situation was:

A. being a good public speaker.

B. being new in the Senate.

C. being in favor of the amendment.

D. being a woman.

18. The Cyclops Bicycle Repair Shop was organized in 1965 by five owners. They all shared the expenses of rent and tools. Each had a vote on all important decisions affecting the shop.

Below are statements about the shop in 1975. Select one statement which best describes a POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT experience in the shop from 1965 to 1975.

A. Four of the owners lose interest in the shop. One person now owns and manages the shop. He makes all important decisions.

B. The shop is run in the same way, but there are three additional owners who also share in the management of the shop.

C. One member in the group is demanding more control of the management of the shop. The other four insist that things will be handled equally or not at all.

D. The five owners share expenses. Each has a vote in all important decisions.

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19. Edsel was interviewed for a position in the English department at Milo State University. The English department, responsible for interviewing him, decided they wanted to hire him. At the department's request, the Dean of the college who set salaries approved a salary of $15,000 for him. However, he did not receive the position, for the Board of Regents, which has final say-so on hiring, rejected Edsel for political reasons.

Milo State University has which of the following types of POLITICAL SYSTEMS?

A. Elite

B. Bureaucratic

C. Participant

D. Coalitional

20. Look for POLITICAL ACTIVITIES in the following situation.

The Sons of Witches motorcycle gang wanted to gain more respect among local residents. They took a vote and decided to begin building playgrounds for children and to offer to be "Big Brothers" at the local orphanage. Later they were pleased to read reports of their good deeds in the paper. They still made a lot of noise riding their cycles, but people didn't seem to mind as much.

Which of the following is a POLITICAL ACTIVITY in this situation?

A. making noise riding their cycles

B. deciding to build playgrounds

C. buying a newspaper to read

D. wanting more respect

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21. Look for POLITICAL RESOURCES in the following story.

Simple City was run by a Council of ten members. Only the oldest residents of the town qualified to be members of the Council. Because they were old, Council members had more wisdom than anyone else in town and were greatly respected. At weekly meetings, the Council passed resolutions only if all ten members agreed. Many citizens wanted to be on the Council to help lead Simple City.

What POLITICAL RESOURCES would be most useful to a resident of Simple City who wanted to be on the Council?

A. money, good looks, knowledge

B. knowledge, aging pills, a book

C. an age chart, knowledge, status

D. status, aging pills, knowledge

22. Stanley, the explorer who found Dr. Livingston, we presume, explored the African jungles for many years. He used elephants to carry his enamel bathtub and hired assistants to help him fight tribes along the way. The assistants often wished to turn back, but Stanley would not permit it on pain of death. All of their lives depended upon staying together and carrying out their tasks under Stanley's leadership.

Which of the following statements would be most useful in identifying Stanley's group as a POLITICAL SYSTEM?

A. The assistants often wished to turn back.

B. The safety of the group depended on the assistants' support of Stanley's leadership.

C. Stanley enjoyed taking baths.

D. The exploration took place in the African jungles.

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23. Which of the following lists contains ONLY POLITICAL ACTIVITIES?

A. watching a political convention
applying for welfare
displaying a flag

B. writing a letter to the editor about a proposed law
learning the capitals of the states
paying taxes

C. helping to decide a school policy
writing a letter to the governor
participating in a strike

D. joining a political party
talking to friends about the President
visiting the Jefferson Memorial

24. Look for POLITICAL RESOURCES in the following situation.

The Society for Safe Streets (SSS) is attempting to get the state to pass a law requiring guns to be registered. They do not have much popular support yet, but they have received large financial contributions from a number of wealthy people. They plan to buy television time to present their view to the public. Some of the members of SSS have friends in the legislature who keep them informed about developments behind the scenes.

What POLITICAL RESOURCES does SSS have?

A. status and television

B. laws and friends

C. information and money

D. members and prestige

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25. The Markham gang was formed by Bill and Jesse Markham, who were the toughest hombres in west Kansas. They terrorized towns, robbed banks, and were a general nuisance. The other members of the gang took orders from the Markham brothers because they were smarter, faster-shooting, and meaner than anyone else around. So they all pulled the jobs and split the loot, but Bill and Jesse decided where, when, and how.

Which type of POLITICAL SYSTEM best describes the Markham gang?

A. Elite

B. Bureaucratic

C. Participant

D. Coalitional

26. Look for POLITICAL RESOURCES in the following story.

Woodtown was famous for its wood products. People came to Woodtown from miles away to buy tables, chairs, and other items. The mayor was the best carpenter in town. Only master woodworkers were on the City Council. Together the mayor and the Council made all the decisions. Fifty percent of the money gained from sales of products was put into a fund to buy more wood for the town. To remain well liked by the mayor, individuals often gave more than the required 50%.

Which of the following alternatives contains ONLY POLITICAL RESOURCES in Woodtown?

A. carpentry skills, money

B. leadership, wood, equality

C. wood, money, carpentry skills

D. town fund, mayor, council

27. Read the following situation. Which one of the four statements listed below is true about the OBSERVER ROLE in this situation?

In Nowheresville there was a hot debate going on about whether to withdraw funding for high school football. The coach attended the P.T.A. meeting and listened carefully to the discussion. He took notes so that he could brief his team on the latest developments.

But halfway through the meeting the coach lost his patience. Leaping to his feet, he told the group exactly what he thought. As a result of his remarks, loud boos brought the discussion to a temporary halt.

A. The coach performed the observer role well because he stated his opinion about the issue.

B. The coach performed the observer role poorly because he did not agree with what the others said.

C. The coach performed the observer role poorly because he disrupted the group's discussion.

D. The coach did not perform an observer role at all.

STOP